

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 9-11, 13-20, 24-35, 40, 43, and 44 are presently active in this case. Claims 1-8, 12, 21-23, 36-39, 41, and 42 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 9, 11, 17, 19, 24, 26, 32, and 34 have been amended by way of the present Amendment.

Claims 13, 40, 43, and 44 have been indicated as being allowed.

Additionally, Claims 11, 17, 19, 21, 26-28, 32, 34, and 36 have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. The subject matter of allowable Claim 21 has been incorporated into base Claim 9, thereby placing Claim 9 and Claims 10, 14-16, 18, and 20 dependent thereon into condition for allowance. The subject matter of allowable Claim 36 has been incorporated into base Claim 24, thereby placing Claim 24 and Claims 25, 29-31, 33, and 35 dependent thereon into condition for allowance. Claims 11, 17, 19, 26, 32, and 34 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their respective base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Claims 11, 17, 19, 26-28, 32, and 34 are in condition for allowance.

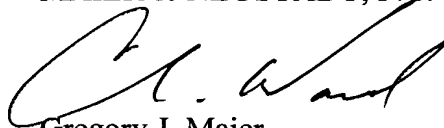
The amendments set forth herein render the outstanding art rejection moot, and place all of the pending claims into condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the entry of the amendments set forth herein.

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Reply to Office Action dated July 16, 2004

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable consideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. J. Maier', written over the printed name.

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